

# Emma Nguyen [ŋwĩŋ]

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

*Areas:* First Language Acquisition, Psycholinguistics, Neurolinguistics, Semantics, Computational Modeling  
*Topics:* Passives, Lexical Semantics, Verb Classes, A-Movement, Argument Structure

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## APPOINTMENTS

**Newcastle University** | School of English, Language and Linguistics

2022-present Lecturer (~ Tenured Assistant Professor) in Child Language Acquisition

2022-present Co-director, Child Language Acquisition Workspace (CLAW-Space)

2022-present Co-lead, Language Evolution, Acquisition, and Development (LEAD)

**University of California, Irvine** | Department of Language Science

2021- 2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, Funding: National Science Foundation SPRF Grant  
Computation of Language Acquisition (COLA) Lab, PI: Lisa Pearl

2021- 2022 Lecturer

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## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 2021 Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs  
Dissertation: “The predictive power of lexical semantics on the acquisition of passive voice in young children.” Advisor: William Snyder
- 2017 M.A. in Linguistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs  
Areas of examination: Language Acquisition, Neurolinguistics
- 2016 Graduate Certificate in Neurobiology of Language, University of Connecticut, Storrs
- 2013 B.A. in Linguistics, University of Maryland, College Park  
Honors Thesis: “Who vs What – Teasing Apart Potential Strategies Young Children May Use to Understand Questions.” Advisors: Jeff Lidz, Valentine Hacquard

### Professional Development

- 2022-2024 Advanced Higher Education Fellowship (*expected for 2024*) supported by the Newcastle Educational Practice Scheme (NEPS)
- 2015 Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, University of Chicago  
Travel grant awarded by IGERT: Language Plasticity, Genes, Brain, Cognition & Computation Innovation Fund, 2015

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## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, & GRANTS

- 2023-2026 Full PhD Funding Awarded to Holly Drayton. Northern Bridge Consortium. “Western Austronesian voice in three Berawan languages of northern Borneo: Description, Usage and Formal Syntactic Account.” With Michelle Sheehan.

- 2021-2022 Principal Investigator. NSF SBE-SPRF-2105267. “Using quantitative methods to understand the impact of input on development: Looking at lexical feature input for the development of the passive voice in English”. University of California, Irvine. With Lisa Pearl. \$138,000
- 2021 David Michaels Teaching Assistant Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs.
- 2020 Isabelle Y. Liberman Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs. \$2,500
- 2019 Pre-Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Connecticut, Storrs. \$2,000
- 2018 Commendation for Excellence in Teaching, University of Connecticut, Storrs.
- 2018 Graduate Summer Fellowship, The Connecticut Institute for the Brain and Cognitive Sciences. \$4,000
- 2017 Doctoral Student Travel Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs. \$750
- 2017 Paula Menyuk Travel Award, BUCLD. \$300
- 2017 Travel Award, Society for the Neurobiology of Language. \$500
- 2016-2017 Instructional Fellowship, NSF IGERT - DGE: Language Plasticity, Genes, Brain, Cognition & Computation, University of Connecticut, Storrs. \$5,500
- 2016 Travel Award for Best Student Abstract, GALANA-7, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. \$500
- 2013-2015 Fellow, NSF IGERT - DGE: Language Plasticity, Genes, Brain, Cognition & Computation, University of Connecticut, Storrs. \$60,000
- 2013-2021 Giolas-Harriott Fellowship, University of Connecticut, Storrs. \$108,000
- 2013-2021 Crandall-Cordero Fellowship, University of Connecticut, Storrs. \$12,000
- 2012 Baggett Undergraduate Summer Scholarship, University of Maryland, College Park. \$3,000

## PUBLICATIONS

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- In Prep* **Nguyen, E.,** Naigles, N. English-speaking children can rely on lexical information to comprehend passives: A novel-verb learning study.
- In Prep* **Nguyen, E.,** Pearl, L. Using developmental modeling to investigate the impact of meaning on the passive in English children.
- In Prep* **Nguyen, E.,** Sprouse, J. A typology of ERP satiation effects on syntactically illicit sentences.
- 2021 **Nguyen, E.,** Pearl, L. “The link between lexical semantic features and children’s comprehension of English verbal passives. *Language Acquisition*,” 28(4), 433-450. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10489223.2021.1939354>
- 2019 **Nguyen, E.,** Pearl, L. “Using developmental modeling to specify learning and representation of the passive in English children.” *Proceedings of the 43rd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 43)*.
- 2018 **Nguyen, E.,** Martinez Vera, G. “A surprising comparison: a unified account of degree “surprisingly” with bare adjectives and comparatives.” *Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS 48)*.
- 2018 **Nguyen, E.,** Snyder, W. “It’s hard to extend: a unified account of Raising-Past-Experiencers and Passives in Child English.” *Proceedings of the 42nd Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 42)*.

- 2017 **Nguyen, E.**, Pearl, L. “Do you really mean it? Linking lexical semantic profiles and the age of acquisition for the English passive.” *Proceedings from West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 35)*.
- 2017 **Nguyen, E.**, Snyder, W. “The (Non)-Effects of Pragmatics on Children’s Passives.” *Proceedings of the 41st Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 41)*.
- 2017 **Nguyen, E.**, Lillo-Martin, D., Snyder, W. “Actionality speaks louder than felicity: children’s comprehension of long passives.” *Language Acquisition at the Interfaces: Proceedings of GALA 2015*.

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#### UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

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- 2017 Nguyen, E. Using P600 satiation to reveal hidden N400s beneath semantic P600s  
Unpublished manuscript. University of Connecticut, Storrs.
- 2016 Nguyen, E. Felicity of the by-phrase is not enough: Re-evaluating O’Brien et al. (2006).  
Unpublished manuscript. University of Connecticut, Storrs.

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#### TALKS & POSTERS

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- 2020 **Nguyen, E.** Can “blick” be passivized? Depends on its meaning: A novel-verb study with English-speaking children. Talk at the 45th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 45). Boston.
- 2020 **Nguyen, E.** The predictive power of lexical semantics on the passive behavior in young children. Poster at The 94th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. New Orleans.
- 2019 **Nguyen, E.** The predictive power of lexical semantics on the passive behavior in young children. Poster at 44th Annual Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 44). Boston.
- 2019 **Nguyen, E.**, Sprouse, J. ERP satiation of whether-islands impacts scalp distribution, not amplitude. Talk at The 93rd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. New York City.
- 2018 **Nguyen, E.**, Pearl, L. Using developmental modeling to specify learning and representation of the passive in English children. Poster presented at the Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition 2018 (GALANA-8). Indiana University.
- 2018 **Nguyen, E.**, Sprouse, J. Exploring heterogeneous P600 satiation in an attempt to reveal N400s in semantic P600 sentences. Poster at The 31st Annual CUNY Sentence Processing Conference. University of California, Davis.
- 2018 **Nguyen, E.**, Sprouse, J. The (non-) satiation of P600/SPS effects to distinct grammatical violations. Talk at The 92nd Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America. Salt Lake City.
- 2017 **Nguyen, E.**, Sprouse, J. The (non-) satiation of P600/SPS effects to distinct grammatical violations. Poster at the 9th Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Baltimore.
- 2017 **Nguyen, E.**, Snyder, W. On Semantic Coercion in Children’s Raising and Passives. Talk at the International Conference of the Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition (GALA 13), Palma de Mallorca.

- 2017 **Nguyen, E.,** Pearl, L. Do you really mean it? Linking lexical semantic profiles and the age of acquisition for the English passive. Talk presented at the Chicago Linguistic Society (CLS 53). University of Chicago.
- 2017 **Nguyen, E.,** Pearl, L. Do you really mean it? Linking lexical semantic profiles and the age of acquisition for the English passive. Talk presented at the Linguistic Society of America Annual Meeting (LSA Annual Meeting 2017). Austin.
- 2016 **Nguyen, E.,** Snyder, W. The (Non)- Effects of Pragmatics on Children’s Passives. Talk presented at the Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition in North America (GALANA-7). University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

## INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

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- Upcoming* Nguyen, E. “Acquisition of the passive in English-learning children from different socio-economic statuses: A comparison using computational cognitive modeling.” Invited Talk at Linguistics Research Seminar. Ulster University.
- 2023 Nguyen, E. “Getting Passive by Extending Classes: A Novel Verb-Learning Study with Adults and Children.” Invited Talk at the Cambridge Linguistics Forum (CLF). Cambridge University.
- 2022 Nguyen, E. “Getting Passive by Extending Classes: A Novel Verb-Learning Study with Adults and Children.” Invited Talk at Jabberwocky Words in Linguistics. University of Bucharest & University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- 2022 Nguyen, E. “Getting Passive by Extending Classes: A Novel Verb-Learning Study with Adults and Children.” Invited Talk at Language Acquisition Research Group (LARG). University of Hawaii at Manoa.
- 2019 Nguyen, E. “Changing from within: Assessing input for passive acquisition.” Talk at QuantLab. UC-Irvine.
- 2018 Nguyen, E. “Why “to be loved” comes later: viewing passive acquisition through the lens of lexical semantic features.” Talk at Meaning and Modality Lab. Harvard.
- 2018 Nguyen, E. “Using developmental modeling to specify learning and representation of the passive in English children.” Talk at CompLang. MIT.
- 2018 Nguyen, E. “Exploring heterogeneous P600 satiation in an attempt to reveal N400s in semantic P600 sentences.” Talk at Psycholing Lab Meeting. University of Amherst.
- 2017 Nguyen, E., Snyder, W. “It’s hard to coerce: a unified account of Raising-Past-Experiencers and Passives in Child English.” Talk presented at the Experimental Syntax and Semantics Lab. MIT.
- 2017 Nguyen, E. “Lexical semantic profiles and the age of acquisition for the English passive.” Talk presented at the Workshop on Passives. University of Geneva.
- 2016 Nguyen, E. “Lexical semantic profiles and the age of acquisition for the English passive.” Talk presented at the Experimental Syntax and Semantics Lab. MIT.
- 2016 Nguyen, E. “Assessing the semantic cues for the acquisition of passives: A corpus study.” Presentation at the Computational Language Acquisition (CoLa) Laboratory. University of California-Irvine.
- 2015 Nguyen, E. “Some thoughts on English-speaking children’s comprehension of long passives.” Talk presented at the UMass-UConn-Smith Language Acquisition Workshop (UUSLAW). Smith College.

- 2015 Nguyen, E. “Actionality speaks louder than felicity: children’s comprehension of long passives.” Talk presented at the UMass-UConn-Smith Language Acquisition Workshop (UUSLAW). University of Connecticut.

## TEACHING

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### Newcastle University

- Spring 2024 SEL3438: From Input to Output: The Blackbox of Child Language Acquisition. With Rebecca Woods. (undergraduate)  
 SEL8695: Learning and Learnability. With Rebecca Woods. (graduate)
- Fall 2023 SEL2235: CHiLD: Current Hypotheses in Language Development. (undergraduate)  
 SEL1008: Nature of Language. With Rebecca Woods. (undergraduate)
- Spring 2023 SEL3438: Child Language Acquisition. (undergraduate)  
 SEL 8695: Advanced Topics in Child Language Acquisition. (graduate)
- Fall 2022 SEL2086: Introduction to Child and Adult Language Acquisition. With James Corbet. (undergraduate)  
 SEL8687: Introduction to Child and Adult Language Acquisition. With James Corbet. (graduate)

### University of California, Irvine

- Fall 2021 LSCI 3 Introduction to Linguistics. (undergraduate)

### University of Connecticut, Storrs

- 2018, 2020 LING 3610W: Language and Culture. (undergraduate)
- 2017 TA for LING 1010: Language and Mind. (undergraduate)
- 2016 TA for COGS5120: Structure, Acquisition, and Processing of Language. (graduate)
- 2015 Introduction to Compositional Semantics. IGERT January-Term. With Garrett Smith. (graduate)

## ADVISING

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### Graduate

- Ongoing Doctoral Dissertation (co-chair with Michelle Sheehan): Holly Drayton
- 2023 MA Thesis (supervisor): Kalindi Patankar
- 2023 MA Thesis (supervisor): Abrar Mohammed Agili

### Undergraduate

- Ongoing UG Thesis (supervisor): Caitlin Parkin
- Ongoing UG Thesis (supervisor): Adam Stirling
- Ongoing UG Thesis (supervisor): Olivia Marney
- Ongoing UG Thesis (supervisor): Evan Barclay
- 2023 UG Thesis (supervisor): Lizzie Jenkins
- 2023 UG Thesis (supervisor): Emily May
- 2023 UG Thesis (supervisor): Georgia Nuttall
- 2022 Capstone Project (supervisor): Matilda Loughtman
- 2019-2021 Graduate Student Mentor: Anna Holden

2019-2021 Graduate Student Mentor: Rachel Byrne

## **SERVICE & OUTREACH**

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- 2023-2024 Organizing Committee, 2024 LAGB Annual Meeting. Newcastle University.
- 2023-2024 Co-organizer, “Family Relaxation Tent”. Newcastle Discovery Festival.
- 2023 Co-organizer, “Preschool Poets”. Being Human Festival.
- 2023 – Widening Access and Outreach Coordinator, Newcastle University.
- 2023 Co-organizer, LEAD Away Days. Newcastle University.
- 2022-2023 Taster Session. “You thought what? Point of view in children’s language acquisition”. Sunderland College.
- 2022-2023 Instructor, Lang/Ling Writing Workshop Series. Newcastle University.
- 2022-2023 Organizing Committee, Verbal Domain Conference. Newcastle University.
- 2022-2023 Internal Reviewer for Northern Bridge Consortium Panel, Newcastle University.
- 2022 Mentor, LSA Committee on Gender Equity in Linguistics Pop-up Mentoring Program, 47th Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD 47), Boston.
- 2016-2017 Vice President, LingClub. University of Connecticut.
- 2015-2016 Chair, Linguistics Colloquium Lecture Series. University of Connecticut.
- 2015 College of Language Arts and Sciences Newsletter. “A Child and a Puppet: How Children Learn Language.” Co-featured with William Snyder. University of Connecticut.  
<https://today.uconn.edu/2015/12/a-child-and-a-puppet-how-children-learn-language/>
- 2015 Parents’ Night at the Discovery Zone Learning Center. “Developmental Milestones.” Co-presented with William Snyder. Columbia, CT.

### **Ad-Hoc Manuscript Reviewer**

*Glossa, Language Acquisition, Journal of Child Language*

### **Ad-Hoc Abstract Reviewer**

Boston University Conference on Language Development (BUCLD), LSA Annual Meeting

### **Professional Memberships**

Linguistics Society of America (2015-2021)

[Updated: 10/27/2023]